

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

REQ'D 29 MAR 2005

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| Applicant's or agent's file reference RM-111(PCT) | FOR FURTHER ACTION | | See Form PCT/IPEA/416 |
| International application No. PCT/US04/12234 | International filing date (day/month/year) 21 April 2004 (21.04.2004) | Priority date (day/month/year) 05 June 2003 (05.06.2003) | |
| International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC IPC(7): B41F 17/00 and US Cl.: 101,2, 35, 38.1, 40, 41, 44, 487: 347/2 | | | |
| Applicant STOLLE MACHINERY COMPANY, LLC | | | |
| <p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>3</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of <u> </u> sheets, as follows:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) <u> </u>, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application</p> | | | |
| Date of submission of the demand 04 January 2005 (04.01.2005) | | Date of completion of this report 01 March 2005 | |
| Name and mailing address of the IPEA/ US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: IPEA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230 | | Authorized officer <i>Indelle</i> Eugene H. Bickholt Telephone No. 571-272-2160 | |

Form PCT/IPEA/409 (cover sheet)(January 2004)

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/US04/12234

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:

- ☐ international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
☐ publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
☐ international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:

☒ the international application as originally filed/furnished

☒ the description:

pages 1-11 as originally filed/furnished

pages* NONE received by this Authority on _____

pages* NONE received by this Authority on _____

☒ the claims:

pages 12-16 as originally filed/furnished

pages* NONE as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19

pages* NONE received by this Authority on _____

pages* NONE received by this Authority on _____

☒ the drawings:

pages 1-5 as originally filed/furnished

pages* NONE received by this Authority on _____

pages* NONE received by this Authority on _____

☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing

3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages _____
☐ the claims, Nos. _____
☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
☐ any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*): _____

4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

- ☐ the description, pages _____
☐ the claims, Nos. _____
☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
☐ any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.
PCT/US04/12234**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement****1. Statement**

Novelty (N)

Claims 1-24 YESClaims NONE NO

Inventive Step (IS)

Claims 2-24 YESClaims 1 NO

Industrial Applicability (IA)

Claims 1-24 YESClaims NONE NO**2. Citations and Explanations (Rule 70.7)**

Claim 1 fails to meet the criteria set forth in PCT Article 33(3) as Thomason uses ink jet print heads said to be conventional at column 2, line 27. Circular objects in cross section are being printed as stated at column 3, line 19. Rotation of the objects during printing is disclosed at column 2, lines 61-63. It is well known that cans are objects having circular cross sections and it is also wellknown that modern ink jet printers print digitally under computer program control to ensure speed, accuracy and ease of font style changes.

Claims 2-24 meet the criteria set forth in PCT Article 33(2)-(3) as the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest the use of multiple computer controlled ink jet printheads in combination with a can transport which can transport cans to selective printheads while rotating the cans.

Claims 1-24 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(4), and thus have industrial applicability because the subject matter claimed can be made or used in industry.